

## Connect Group Discussion Guide – 7/30/2023

### 1 Peter 4 The Life and Letters of Peter

**Video Link:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvR0S5fB8AzraGYts4eQfg> (Posted on Monday)

**Audio Only:** On Spotify or Apple Podcasts: Connection Point Podcast

**Opening discussion: How are you kind of terrible and kind of awesome at the same time?**

#### Highlights

- **1 Peter 4:1** “Therefore....”
  - 1 Peter 3:18 The Righteous ONE (Jesus) suffered for ME to purify me to have access to God (that sin had separated us from)
  - His body and spirit went in different directions. Body – death. Spirit – life.
- **1 Peter 4:1-2** We are called to carry the attitude of preparing to suffer.
  - There is a crossroads or fork in the road. You have two options:
    - What you want to do
    - What God wants
  - An attitude of suffering makes me look more like Jesus.
  - We face the fork on an ongoing basis because we don't stay on the path of God for very long (usually).
  - **What does this fork look like in your life?**
- **1 Peter 4:3** Two things about the list Peter writes about: it's incomplete. Where do you find yourself on the list.
  - The list represents doing things our way (that fork from above)
  - All idolatry is detestable to God. Putting something ahead of Him.
  - Your life is accounted for between the commas.
  - **Where do you find yourself. What would you add to the list. What do or have you placed ahead of God?**
  - We are made in the image of God, yet we do evil things.
    - Creates a tension that's always there: our flesh pulls one direction and our spirit the other. Death one way, life the other. (See 1 Peter 3:18 above)
    - This causes us to do things we know we shouldn't.
- **1 Peter 4:4-5** “join them” = run with them or journey where they journey. With Jesus, something inside us says, “I don't want to run with them anymore.”
  - There response: “I thought you were one of us!” **What have you turned away from where the people you used to run with said, “I thought you were one of us?”**
- **We are journeying somewhere whether we choose to or not. Where are you journeying?**
  - You have 3 options: Move with them, float in the same direction, turn around
- **1 Peter 4:6-7** Jesus is returning and we're getting closer.
  - **Do you take prayer for granted?**
  - **Who do you know that doesn't know Jesus? Are you “clear minded” to pray for them.**
  - **Is your prayer intentional?**
- **1 Peter 4:8-10** Gift – we get stuck wondering what our special gift is.
  - In it's most basic form, we are given the gift to love on another. Out of the overflow of the gift of God's grace to us, we have the gift and ability to love others.
    - Stop taking gift assessments!

- **1 Peter 4:11** “speaks” = make sound with your mouth. Whenever you open your mouth, do so as if God is speaking. Even when someone hurts you or makes you mad. There are no qualifiers to get you off the hook. ALWAYS speak as if God is speaking.
  - Serve – anything you do for someone else because you love God and others.
    - Do it with the heart as if God had asked you to do it, even if it’s as simple as getting a glass of water for someone.
- **1 Peter 4:15-16** Being a busybody is just like going to jail. The suffering is the same.
  - If you call yourself a Christian (in the days this was written), you will suffer and possibly have to go to jail!
- **1 Peter 4:17** God’s judgement = God refining us to look more like Jesus. **How are you experiencing God’s refining?** Another way to put this is **How is Jesus changing you?**
- **1 Peter 4:18 (Proverbs 11:31).** Does it break your heart there are people in your life who do not know Jesus? Imagine the suffering they are going to have to face. **Who does your heart break for?**
- **1 Peter 4:19** commit = to lay on the table (or altar or lay at the feet of)
  - Not a one time thing. Have to make that commitment everyday.
  - **We must continually decide to keep ourselves before God.**
- **How do we keep ourselves before God?**
  - Determine your direction. Say it out loud to someone else.
  - Decide whatever gifts you have no matter how small are worth sharing with others.
    - Stop trying to figure out. Serve with the gift of love.
    - Do something.
    - **How can you serve in love today?**
  - Embrace God’s judgement today. He wants to mold you to look more like Him and be a citizen of His Kingdom.
- **What do people look like who are journeying toward Jesus?**
  - Wrestle with Scripture – stay curious.
  - Say yes to baptism.
  - Prioritize holiness over success.
  - Never stop fighting for healthy relationships.
  - Love their enemies and pray for those who cause them to suffer.
  - Live generously.
  - Allow others to minister to them – we’re not meant to do this alone.
  - Fall to their knees even when their lives are crumbling.
  - Know this world is not their home and act like they know it.

**We are journeying somewhere whether we choose to or not. Which direction are you moving?**